

# Orange County Water District

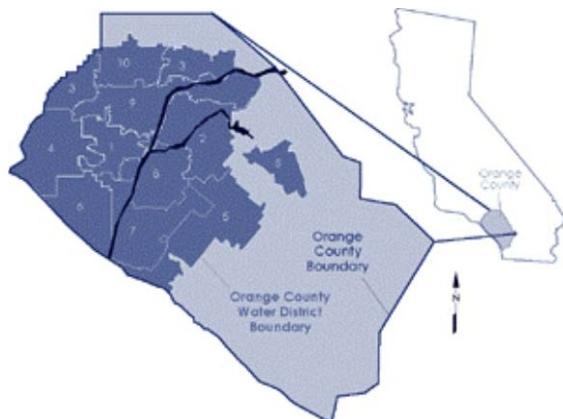


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Budget Report  
FY 2015-2016

## ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT HISTORY AND CHARACTER

The District receives an average of only 13 to 15 inches of rainfall annually, yet sustains a population of approximately 2.4 million people. The residents and businesses within the District have two primary sources of drinking water. One source is a natural underground reservoir, called the Orange County groundwater basin. The other source, referred to as imported water, comes from Colorado through the Colorado River Aqueduct and from the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta in Northern California through the State Water Project.



The groundwater basin was used by early settlers to supplement flows from the Santa Ana River.

As the area developed into a thriving agricultural center, the increased demand upon the subsurface water by the county's many wells resulted in a gradual lowering of the water table. In response, the Orange County Water District was formed in 1933 by a special act of the California State Legislature. OCWD manages the groundwater basin that underlies the northwest half of the county, supplying a significant percentage of the District's total water demand. The remaining demand is obtained through the Colorado River Aqueduct and State Water Project via the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the Municipal Water District of Orange County.

### DISTRICT VITAL STATISTICS

Date of Enactment: 1933  
 Form of Government: Special District of the State of California  
 Area (square miles): 358  
 Employees (full-time equivalent): 218.5

#### Major Groundwater Producing Agencies:

Anaheim, City of  
 Buena Park, City of  
 East Orange County Water District  
 Fountain Valley, City of  
 Fullerton, City of  
 Garden Grove, City of  
 Golden State Water Company  
 Huntington Beach, City of  
 Irvine Ranch Water District  
 La Palma, City of

Mesa Water District  
 Newport Beach, City of  
 Orange, City of  
 Santa Ana, City of  
 Seal Beach, City of  
 Serrano Water District  
 Tustin, City of  
 Westminster, City of  
 Yorba Linda Water District